Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.9422
In 3294

Cop 5

WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF DISTRIBUTION
Washington 25, D. C.

May 12, 1944

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BRANCH
ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER NO. 4

PROCESSED PRODUCTS STANDARDIZATION AND INSPECTION DIVISION

AMENDMENT TO RULES AND REGULATIONS

We understand the Processed Products Inspection Force did not receive copies of the amendment to the Rules and Regulations, issued on August 5, 1943, concerning "Fees for grading commodities requiring microscopical analysis," "Fee for making alcohol-insoluble-solids determination," and "When charges are to be based on an hourly rate." A copy of the amendment should be received within a few days by each Processed Foods Inspector.

PREPARATION OF AMA-39s BY PROCESSED FOODS INSPECTORS

It has come to our attention that quite a few of the offices are eliminating the year in reporting services rendered. Unless the year is included in the date on service reports, reports will be returned to the office concerned. Group service for each inspector on AMA-39s, as instructed in Fruit and Vegetable Branch Memorandum forwarded to field offices at the beginning of this fiscal year.

SERVICE TO WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRATION

All service rendered the War Shipping Administration must be charged against the operator (in most instances the steamship company acts as the operator for War Shipping Administration). Collections should be deposited to Appropriation 12x8015, 1200. War Shipping Administration will not pay for this service direct.

FIFTH AND SIXTH COPIES OF FORM NO. 1 - CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT

The Administrative Services Division informs us that all Regions have received substantial stocks of the Fifth and Sixth Copies of Form No. 1, - Certificate of Deposit, for use in connection with the handling of collections by Field Offices.

The quadruplicate sets of Form No. 1, which with the Fifth and Sixth Copies are used, must still be secured from the Washington office.

INDOCTRINATION CLASSES

Indoctrination classes have been scheduled from which to recruit trainees for positions in this service, as follows:

Mississippi College for Women, Columbus, Mississippi - May 2 to 5, inclusive, to be conducted by Mr. Earl F. Burk, of the Hammond, La., office.

Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio - May 11 to 14, inclusive - to be conducted by Mr. M. W. Baker, In Charge of the Columbus, Ohio, office.

Louisiana State College, Baton Rouge, Louisiana - May 17 to 20, inclusive, to be conducted by Mr. Earl F. Burk.

A class will convene at Pennsylvania State College the latter part of June, which is to be conducted by Mrs. Linderer.

It is likely that a few more appointments will be made during the next 60 days and any inspectors who have friends they wish to suggest be invited to training classes should send their names to Mrs. E. T. Linderer of the Washington office, together with a brief statement covering each person's educational background and business experience.

NOTES:

Mr. Percy Hall, an inspector in the Gardiner, Maine office, was unfortunate in breaking a leg on May 4, while on official duty in Eastport, Maine. He is now in the Naval Hospital in Quoddy Village, Maine.

Three inspection assignments outside the continental United States are being handled by inspectors from this Division. Mr. Max Mergentime is inspecting large quantities of dehydrated vegetables in Cuba; Mr. Hugh C. Landes will proceed shortly to Los Mochis, Sinoloa, Mexico, to inspect large quantities of canned tomatoes and tomato juice; and the Seattle office is handling inspections of large quantities of sugar in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Paul M. Williams, Chief

FRESH PRODUCTS STANDARDIZATION AND INSPECTION DIVISION

PEANUT GRADE INTERPRETATION

Shelled peanut samples recently sent from the market offices to the Washington office for checking have revealed certain differences in grade interpretation. In order to eliminate these differences, it is suggested that all inspectors observe the following instructions:

Very small, very immature, shriveled peanut shells containing practically no kernel are commonly called "raisins" by the shelling industry. Owing to their small size, they frequently pass through the machinery and screens into the shelled goods. They are usually harder and more woody than normal peanut hulls. Since they contain no edible kernel, they should be classed as foreign material and not as unshelled peanuts. We will continue to class as "unshelled" all peanuts which have at least a fairly well developed kernel, and score them with the damaged kernels.

"Small pieces" are defined in the Spanish and Runner grades as portions of peanuts which pass through the screen with 16/64 inch round openings. Although not specific, the definition has generally been interpreted as meaning portions of halves or less than entire halves, since halves are spoken of in the grade as "split peanuts." Therefore, halves which are entire or practically so should not be included and scored with the small pieces and small shriveled.

INSPECTION OF ASPARAGUS

All inspectors having copies of the handbook for inspection of asparagus are requested to delete the last sentence of paragraph 34 and substitute the following for paragraph 35:

"It is natural for asparagus to have purple tips and this should be included with the green color on stalks in determining the amount of green color. Purple color at the base of the stalk is not considered as green color."

FIFTH AND SIXTH COPIES OF FORM NO. 1 - CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT

Please see item with above heading - on page 1 of this issue of Administrative Letter.

E. E. Conklin, Chief.

MARKET NEWS DIVISION

UNUSUAL SITUATIONS---SUGGESTIONS.

In the planning and operation of the various programs of the Fruit and Vegetable Branch, market news men are in a position to furnish valuable local information on supplies, current market situations, and trouble spots. Whenever unusual situations which may cause marketing difficulties in your market or shipping areas come to your attention, if they seem urgent, wire Washington. If not urgent, write outlining the situation, and if you have suggestions - either your own or those obtained from your contacts - also furnish them. They may be very helpful. Some of you are now furnishing special information on request and all may expect from time to time to receive requests for specific or detailed information on some current problem. With your many contacts and intimate knowledge of conditions in your area, your information can be extremely valuable and helpful.

NOTES:

Because of a flurry in the Maine potato market early in May with indications of a fairly heavy volume of shipments during May, operation of the Presque Isle office will be continued until about May 19. Mr. Russell will take over operation of the Onley, Virginia, office about May 24.

C. D. Schoolcraft, Chief.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATION MARKET NEWS SERVICE

Stations	In Charge	Product	First Bulletin
Brawley, Calif.			
Planters Hotel Bldg.	J. A. Hunter	Carrots & Cants.	May 8
Crystal Springs, Miss.	[illegible]		
City Hall	R. G. Rissor	Cabbage & misc. veg.	Apr. 28
Lakeland, Fla.			
Box 191	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 18, 194[illegible]
Leesburg, Fla.	R. M. Peterson	Watermelons	May 16
Mobile, Ala.			
312 Staple-Pake Bldg.	A. K. Bredin	Potatoes	Apr. 24
Onley, Va.	R. E. Keller	Strawberries	May 15
Rochester, N. Y.			
300 Terminal Bldg.	A. L. Thomas	Vegetables	Aug.24,1943
The Following Are Expected to Open on the Approximate Dates Indicated			
Charleston, S. C.	R. M. Fox	Potatoes	May 22
Jacksonville, Tex.	L. N. Gillespie	Tomatoes	June 1
Macon, Ga.	R. E. Keller	Peaches	June 1
Washington, N. C.	R. M. Fox	Potatoes	June 5
The Following Closed or Expect to Close on Approximate Dates Indicated			
Belle Glade, Fla.	F. S. Nightingale	Vegetables	May 13
Chadbourn, N. C.	Mrs. R. E. Keller	Strawberries	May 20
Corpus Christi, Tex.	M. W. Hanson	Onions	May 27
Hammond, La.	R. M. Fox	Strawberries	May 11
Hastings, Fla.	A. Stambaugh	Potatoes	May 10
Plant City, Fla.	R. M. Peterson	Strawberries & vegs.	May 12
Presque Isle, Me.	S. W. Russell	Potatoes	May 19
Sanford, Fla.	D. R. Hall	Celery	May 27
[illegible]slaco, Tex.	L. N. Gillespie	Citrus & vegs.	May 29

FRESH MARKETING DIVISION

SECOND HAND FRUIT & VEGETABLE CONTAINERS

For the first time since early last fall there is beginning to be a surplus of good secondhand fruit and vegetable containers accumulated in the terminal markets. The accumulations are not excessive by any means, but it is the first time in recent months that most dealers were not behind with deliveries on most orders.

There are several reasons for this situation; one is the large collections which have resulted from the salvage and re-use programs and the readily available outlets. Another important reason is the fact that the early deals are coming to an end and the later ones are somewhat delayed as a result of recent inclement weather. There is no change in the over-all container situation, so with normal conditions from now on, all these packages will be needed. However, as stated, there is a temporary lull in demand at the present time.

This appears to be an opportune time for used container dealers and fruit and vegetable shippers to bring about some improvements which are desirable. Last winter, owing to the extreme seller's market, many packages were sold for re-use which had not been properly re-conditioned. This resulted in inconvenience and additional expense to the grower and shipper who used them. As a means of assurance to the shipper buying used containers, arrangements were made last fall for inspection service to be available on a carlot basis to shippers who desired it. However, as a result of the shortage of packages and the strong demand, very little use was made of this service. As an adjustment, it would seem desirable for shippers to avail themselves of this protective service. This service would actually protect both the buyer and the seller as according to the provisions of MPR-434, the dealers' price for used containers is only to be charged in cases where the packages have been sorted and reconditioned.

Carl G. Wooster, Chief.

B-427

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL
APR 30 1946
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE